

## **Portland Harbor Update April 18, 2013**

### **What is the Status of the Portland Harbor Superfund Site?**

- The Baseline Human Health Risk Assessment is complete. The final BHHRA was submitted March 28, 2013 and approved April 4, 2013.
- EPA and the LWG are nearing completion of the final baseline ecological risk assessment. The LWG has incorporated EPA's latest comments and provided a final document April 1, 2013 that is under EPA review. EPA is working with LWG to resolve the last remaining edits, and expects that an approvable document will be finalized in June 2013.
- After two inadequate drafts of the RI, EPA is modifying the document, providing a marked up document, section by section, for LWG review and comment. EPA expects to finish with comments on the RI this summer (October 2013). A final version of the document is expected in December 2013.
- EPA submitted comments on the draft FS in December 2012. EPA and the LWG are working on how to finalize the FS and who will have the lead for what parts. EPA anticipates writing a considerable portion of the final FS, with the LWG providing technical support.
- EPA expects high public interest in this project as we move towards issuing the Proposed Plan for the site in the spring of 2014. The region is updating the Site's community relations plan and communication strategy to address the high level of community and public interest and involvement associated with this Site.
- EPA is pleased that several potentially responsible parties (Cargill, Inc., CBS Corporation, City of Portland, DIL Trust, Glacier Northwest, Inc., and PacifiCorp), signed an Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order with EPA to conduct additional focused investigation at the area known as River Mile 11 East. This area has some of the highest PCB concentrations in sediment and fish tissue within the larger Superfund Site. The work done under the agreement is intended to facilitate finalizing the remedial design soon after the Record of Decision is issued. EPA views getting started in the design and planning for cleanup of this area as a key in the sequencing of the river cleanup.
- The LWG, with assistance from local fishermen, including community advisory committee representatives, collected smallmouth bass tissue in the lower Willamette River in the fall of 2012. A data report was recently submitted to EPA. It provides a snapshot of current PCB levels in Portland Harbor and an area upstream of the Site. The data will help with the evaluation of alternatives in the FS and establishing baseline (pre-cleanup) conditions to evaluate remedy effectiveness.

### **Background/Status:**

- Portland Harbor Superfund Site was listed in December 2000 for releases to the river from upland sources.

- EPA has identified approximately 148 PRPs to date, which includes several local, state and federal agencies and departments. Ten PRPs (the Lower Willamette Group or LWG) performing RI/FS under a 2001 AOC.
- State of Oregon is lead for upland source control identification and cleanup.
- RI/FS being coordinated with state and federal Natural Resource Trustee agencies, 6 Native American Tribes
- The Portland Harbor Citizens Advisory Group plays an active role in making sure the concerns of the community are considered throughout the investigation.

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